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SOURCE Wen-hui Pao.

CHENG-TU BARRIER SYSTEM SEVERELY TAXED

Rice has replaced the worthless gold yuan as the medium of exchange in the Chung-tu area of Kwangsi Province. As an example, 1 1/3 pounds of pork is being exchanged for 15 lbs of rice, 1 1/3 pounds of fish or salt for 5 2/3 pounds of rice, one spool of sewing thread or one jar of pomade for 20 pounds of rice, a haircut for four pounds 15 pounds of rice; sewing a garment without pockets or buttonholes for 40 pounds of rice, etc.

Many complaints are being registered, however, by various groups because of the inconveniences of this system. Merchants are finding themselves accumulating great quantities of rice without means of disposing of them. Grain merchants are being run out of business because of the closing of the grain market. Government officials are facing great difficulties in collecting taxes.

To cope with the situation, the Chung-tu Hsien Government issued the following tax rates during the first part of May:

1. Tax of $2\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of grain or 2 pounds of rice for the bartering of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of pork for 13 pounds of rice, and approximately $2\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of grain or $1\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of rice for the bartering of $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of beef for $8\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of rice.
2. Vendor's street stall tax: $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of grain or rice for displaying Class "A" commodities, and $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of grain or 1 pound of rice for displaying Class "B" commodities for sale.
3. Fee for the use of government scales in weighing oil, salt, and rice: $\frac{2}{3}$ pound of grain or $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of rice when the total weight is between 13 and $55\frac{1}{3}$ pounds, and $1\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of grain or $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of rice when the weight is between $53\frac{1}{3}$ and 130 pounds.

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4. Highway fee: 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of grain or 47 $\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of rice for each trip made by an automobile, and 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of grain or 18 $\frac{2}{3}$ pounds of rice for each trip made by a horse-drawn cart.

Since 1 April, moreover, all medical doctors have been requiring their patients to pay them in rice for their services. As an example, 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ pounds of rice has been set for the initial examination, 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ pounds for calls to the homes, 4 pounds for special examination, 13 $\frac{1}{3}$ pounds for delivering a child, etc.

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